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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/819,458	03/27/2001	Geoffrey S. Martin	2409.3273.3US	2544

7590 12/10/2004

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EXAMINER

SIRMONS, KEVIN C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3763

DATE MAILED: 12/10/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/819,458	Applicant(s) MARTIN ET AL.	
	Examiner Kevin C. Sirmons	Art Unit 3763	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 24-29, 31 and 42-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 24-29, 31 and 42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 43-45 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings (Second Time)

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: an outer tube; an inner tube; a first septum; a second septum; a second lumen; a second aperture; and a third aperture. A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification (Second Time)

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required: See an outer tube; an inner tube; a first septum; a second septum; a second lumen; a second aperture; and a third aperture.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 24-29, 31 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Ekholmer U.S. Pat. No. 4,717,379.

Ekholmer discloses an outer tube having a proximal end and a distal end (6); an inner tube (5) having a proximal end and a distal end defining there within a first lumen (2), said inner tube having an outer diameter less than the inner diameter of said outer tube (fig. 3), said inner tube being disposed within said outer tube to define an interior space between the outside of said inner tube and the inside of said outer tube (fig. 3), the inner diameter of said inner tube being sized as to accommodate an insertion guide wire having an outer diameter in a range from about 0.036 inches to about 0.038 inches (It is the examiner's position that the inner tube is sized to accommodate the aforementioned guide wire without destroying the device of Ekholmer. Furthermore, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to change the dimension of the catheter so that the inner tube, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. In re Rose, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955). Additionally, applicant has not disclosed that the dimensions of the guidewire solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well with any guide wire sized to fit into Ekholmer's catheter; a first septum; a second septum; a second lumen; a third lumen; a tapered distal tip; a first, second and third (figs. 1-3); as to claims 26-29 and 31, (fig. 1-3);

As to claim 25, Ekholmer discloses a catheter substantially as claimed except for the size of the inner diameter of the inner tube is about 0.04 inches. It would have been an obvious matter of design choice to change the dimension of the catheter so that the inner tube, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. In re Rose, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955). Furthermore, applicant has not disclosed that the dimensions of the inner tube solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the invention would perform equally well the catheter as disclosed by Ekholmer.

Response to Amendment

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

As to claim 24, has clarified the language of the claims in his arguments, however, applicant failed to define and give reference numerals for the claimed subject matter within the specification. Therefore, the 112 rejections are withdrawn and the objections remain. The examiner suggests amending the specification as applicant argued on page 17 of the response.

Double Patenting

Applicant has submitted in several terminal disclaimers to overcome the Double Patenting rejections. Therefore the rejections have been withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 9/28/04 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The examiner is unclear about what applicant is attempting to argue in his response to claim 24 and 42. However, Ekholmer clearly discloses an interior space between an outer tube and an inner tube that is separated by a first and second septum (figs. 1-3). Note: Applicant's first and second septums are really one septum with a left side and a right side. Furthermore, Ekholmer discloses the various lumens and the various locations as recited in the claims (figs. 1-3).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Kevin C. Sirmons

Patent Examiner

12/6/04

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kevin C. Sirmons". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the printed name and title.